

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are all of the claims pending in the present application. Claims 1, 11, 20, and 29 have been amended herein. Claims 29-31 have been added herein. The claim amendments presented herein are not narrowing and related to patentability.

I. FORMAL MATTERS

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 5, 10, 14, 19, 23, 28, 32 and 37 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Office Action does not indicate whether the drawings filed on July 24, 2001 are acceptable. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to do so.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's acknowledgement of the claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f) and indication that the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's inclusion in the Office Action of a copy of the PTO Form PTO/SB/08A that was submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 2, 2002. The references listed therein are initialed by the Examiner, thereby indicating that these references were

considered by the Examiner, and should be listed on the face of any patent that issues from the present application.

However, the Office Action does not include a copy of the PTO Form 1449 that was submitted in the IDS filed on February 19, 2004, because the IDS was filed after the Examiner prepared the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to send an initialed copy of this form to the undersigned.

The Office Action indicates that the title of the invention is not descriptive. Applicant submits that the title, as amended above, addresses and resolves this objection.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29,31, 33, 34 and 36

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29,31, 33, 34 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,223, 218 (Iijima). This rejection is traversed.

Although the rejection is under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Iijima is prior art under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) and 102(e).

Iijima is directed to simply configuring a VLAN system when a terminal is added or removed. The "device identifying information" mentioned by the Examiner refers to the identity of a particular device, not a type of device, as in the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicant submits that Iijima fails to teach or suggest to assign network devices having a specific device identifying information to the VLAN corresponding to this device identifying information, as recited by independent claims 1, 11, 20 and 29. Also, Applicant submits that Iijima does not teach the use of the device identifying information to identify the network device.

Therefore, since Iijima fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 34 and 36, Applicant submits that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is improper and should be withdrawn.

B. Claims 2, 3, 12, 21 and 30

Claims 2, 3, 12, 21 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,085,238 (Yuasa). This rejection is traversed.

Yuasa fails to make up for the above-described deficiency of Iijima. Therefore, the combination of Iijima and Yuasa fails to form the invention defined by claims 2, 3, 12, 21 and 30 (see MPEP 2143.03, *In re Royka*, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)). Thus, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 2, 3, 12, 21 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper and should be withdrawn.

C. Claims 8, 17, 26 and 35

Claims 8, 17, 26 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,751,967 (Raab). Raab is proper prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). This rejection is traversed.

Raab fails to make up for the above-described deficiency of Iijima. Therefore, the combination of Iijima and Raab fails to form the invention defined by claims 8, 17, 26 and 35 (see MPEP 2143.03, *In re Royka*, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)). Thus, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 8, 17, 26 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper and should be withdrawn.

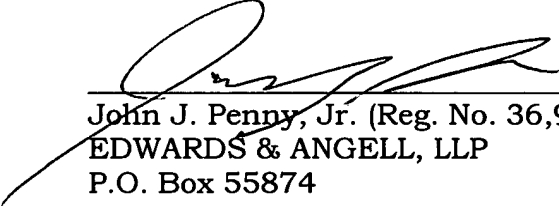
Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that any of the outstanding issues could be resolved through a telephone interview, Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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Applicant believes that no additional fees are due for the subject application. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 25, 2004
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